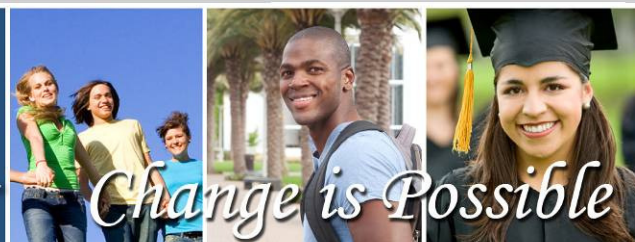
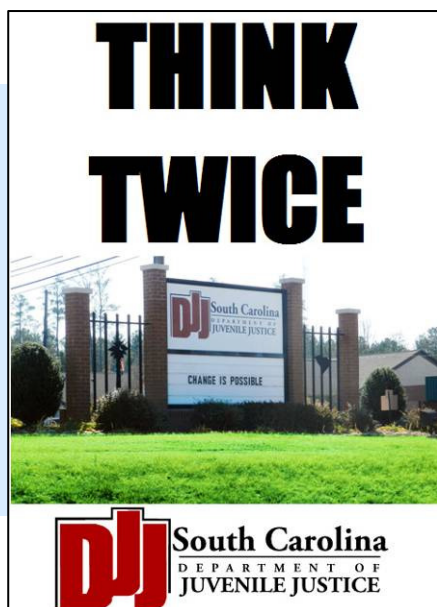


Employees, Volunteers, Community Partners, and Friends

NEWSLETTER


Change is Possible

DJJ Looks to “**THINK TWICE**,” Again



In 1998, DJJ produced “*Think Twice*,” a prevention video for at-risk youth designed to warn them of the dangers of committing crimes and associating with gangs and criminals. The video was popular among solicitors, educators, child-serving organizations, and in DJJ county offices. It was and remains one of DJJ’s most requested videos.

But as DJJ has changed in the last 15 years, so has the need to update the video. So recently, DJJ revisited “*Think Twice*” and a replacement has been produced, giving a more current look at juvenile justice. While the basic purpose remains the same, there are several new additions to the new version of “*Think Twice*” that separate it from the original.

“We wanted to produce a version to reflect a new DJJ,” said “*Think Twice*” director Eric Rousey. “We have imparted a more realistic view of what DJJ is really all about – changing the lives of troubled youth.”

To that end, the “*Think Twice*” producers assembled a cross-divisional focus group of DJJ staff to offer their input on what they wanted to see in the new version of the video.

“The focus group offered a lot of input that we found helpful,” noted Brett Macgargle, associate deputy director of the Office of Planning and Programs and “*Think Twice*” executive producer. “They wanted voices included that were left out in the original, such as a juvenile crime victim.”

In fact, the entire second half of the original “*Think Twice*” video was changed in the new version. While the original focused on the crimes of the youth and the conditions at DJJ, the new version also includes a section with a crime victim and a new, more hopeful ending—emphasizing that youths can change their lives, when there is hope.

“We didn’t want a video that just says you don’t want to come behind the fence, or this is a bad place to be,” noted Rousey. “We wanted to stress to the youth watching the video that they can change, and to end with a success story - a juvenile who had been where they might be, to offer encouragement.”

It’s impossible to say whether this new version of “*Think Twice*” will enjoy the success of the original, but early reviews have been positive, with copies already distributed to solicitors, arbitrators, and DJJ county offices.

The new “*Think Twice*” is available on the DJJ website at:

<http://www.state.sc.us/djj/videos.php>

Upcoming Events

April 9th and 10th (7 a.m. – 11 a.m.) –
 Annual employee health screening
 Bill Rogers Community Connections Center

April 18th (5:30 p.m.) – Volunteer Appreciation,
 Bill Rogers Community Connections Center

May 31st (10 a.m.-3 p.m.) – Employee Recognition Day,
 Bill Rogers Community Connections Center

Old John G. Richards Dorms Are History



The five aged-old and dilapidated dormitories that once lined the perimeter of the John G. Richards Campus are now only a memory in the history of the Department of Juvenile Justice and its Broad River Road Complex. Cedar, the last standing, was demolished in February. The old John G. Richards dorms were built in 1961 as part of a campus modernization project on what was then the South Carolina Girls Industrial School.

Less visible, but also now a part of history, are Delta and Sigma Dormitories, which once stood at the outer edge of the Willow Lane Campus. DJJ's Office of Administrative Support Services coordinated diligently with State and local agencies to plan and execute these complicated and environmentally sensitive demolition projects.



NEWSLETTER

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With contributing writers from across the agency

"Lime Green" at Willow Lane



In December, local business owner Angie Mellor of "Lime Green" repurposed accessories visited with the girls of DJJ's Willow Lane campus. Mellor shared her personal story of turning her hobby into a business. She also conducted a repurposing workshop with the young ladies and gave them an opportunity to make their own special creations using recycled products.

Most of them made T-shirt bracelets and customized picture frames with keyboard keys, rolled newspapers, and other items that Lime Green provided. Staff even got involved in the fun as the workshop provided a therapeutic atmosphere of learning and creativity.

"Lime Green is a great example of the American entrepreneurial spirit utilizing a sustainability approach," said Aloysius Anderson, DJJ's job and apprenticeship/sustainability consultant. "Ms. Mellor started her "Green" business with items that would normally be found in our landfills. She has literally turned trash into treasures, and she is willing to teach our girls to do the same."

Tim Bunch, DJJ Educator, Featured in USC's "Carolinian"



Tim Bunch

Timothy Bunch, a 23-year veteran educator and administrator of Birchwood School, was recently featured in the University of South Carolina Alumni Magazine the "Carolinian." The article highlighted Bunch's method to instructional writing and how his

approach honors diversity in the English language. His method, which challenges traditional writing approaches that honor and support only Standard American English (SAE), was developed during his Master's studies at the University of South Carolina. For his DJJ students, Bunch incorporates dialects in his teaching that are not included in the use of Standard English.

"My approach honors the connection between language and culture," noted Bunch. "I've found that students are more open to writing about what they know and how they speak, rather than the traditional 'assign-a-topic' and 'write-a-five-paragraph-essay' approach."

The USC article features a reference to a former student who made considerable academic progress when his own language dialect was recognized in the classroom.

In the article, Bunch attributes his professional growth to Dr. Tracey Weldon, a linguistics professor, who challenged his traditional understanding of language to embrace a different way of thinking about teaching and writing instruction.

Evidence of Bunch's method of teaching was represented in an anthology of DJJ students' writings in the book, *Voices of the UnHeard: Writings from Behind the Fence*, published in 2007.

DJJ Celebrates PbS Successes!



Dave Crowley, (left) PbS consultant to DJJ, recently presented Director Margaret H. Barber, with a plaque honoring the agency's role as an "Outstanding Mentor State and continued excellence in improving the conditions of confinement."

In 2012, DJJ marked its 10-year milestone of participating in the Performance-based Standards (PbS) Initiative. For the entire year, DJJ along with national PbS coach and consultant Dave Crowley, celebrated the many successes achieved over those 10 years.

Over the years, DJJ presented in PbS Distance Learning Conferences, calls and webinars; twice won the Barbara Allen Hagen National Award for excellence (MEC 2008, CEC 2010); and in 2012, for the first time ever, had 5 of 7 facilities to attain Level 3 or higher, with three (3) of the 7 reaching Level 4 (WL, UEC, and MEC), PbS' highest achievement level!

In addition, DJJ's employees are receiving national attention and recognition for their efforts. DJJ's Field Coordinator, Velvet McGowan, attended the National PbS Coordinators' training, where she participated in a discussion highlighting the changes and improvements DJJ has made. And other PbS staff recently participated in training employees from the states of Louisiana and New Hampshire, who view DJJ as a role model and mentor state because of the agency's many PbS related achievements.

Most recently, DJJ's seven PbS Site Coordinators met for their regular bi-monthly meeting with Director Margaret Barber, and many of her senior leadership team. Every two months this group comes together to share their PbS successes with the Director, and to discuss with her their Facility Improvement Plans and other PbS related issues.

At this meeting, Mr. Crowley again joined us to celebrate the three sites which attained Level 4 (UEC, MEC, and for the first time, Birchwood) during our most recent (October 2012) data reporting period. During this data reporting period, only 14% of PbS sites nationally (approximately 25 sites) reached this highest level of achievement, with DJJ having three of its seven sites (or 43%) reaching this plateau.

All DJJ employees should be recognized and congratulated for these achievements, but in particular, congratulations to DJJ's PbS Site Coordinators and their teams for the work they've done over the last 10 years to make DJJ one of the best! We applaud all of you.

Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) Accountability Through Conferences



BARJ Conference participants: Shawnta Cohen, Social Worker; Youth; Angie Hugie, BARJ Coordinator; Crystal Merritt, Youth Specialist; Marva Fair, Youth Specialist & Jamarial Brown, JCO,

DJJ's "Balanced and Restorative Justice" (BARJ) reform is focused on changing the method for how discipline is handled behind the fence. "Accountability through conferences," is a main aspect of BARJ, one that we will explore in this article.

Here is what happens under the BARJ system when an incarcerated youth breaks a rule. First, the juvenile, witnesses, and any other person involved with the offense are interviewed and a report of the incident is recorded. If the allegations are justified, a BARJ conference takes place.

The purpose of the BARJ conference is to help restore or rebuild relationships. When a juvenile is involved in an offense, the victim and the offender are brought together to help repair the harm caused. The BARJ conference involves the offender and their social worker, a youth specialist, security staff, the victim and any other person who may have been affected directly or indirectly by the offense. It is important to bring all disciplines together to collaborate and develop solutions; and to allow the juveniles to be accountable for their actions while helping victims feel empowered.

The BARJ conference helps juveniles understand how an offense or crime weakens relationships and affects others. During the BARJ conference each participant has a chance to be heard. Offenders are asked to share: 1.) what their need was in getting into the conflict; 2.) what their role was in the conflict; 3.) what commitment will be made to change, so the harm won't be repeated; and, 4.) how they will repair the harm.

Hopefully, the result will be to restore relationships and reintegrate the offender and the victim back into their place in society. BARJ also teaches the juveniles that when they commit an offense they must make things right by performing sanctions to demonstrate remorse and rebuild trust.

"I have been involved with a lot of conferences and there is nothing like watching a young person and a staff member, who had a conflict, talk things out and walk out of the room patting each other on the back and smiling," says Andy Broughton, Director of Restorative Justice.

DJJ Students Develop New Recycling Logo and Slogan



Congratulations to students from the Detention Center, who recently helped to develop a logo and slogan that will brand DJJ's recycling initiative! Their work (seen above) has been developed into a graphic that soon will be printed on recycling banners in all SCDJJ offices and facilities.

Their design was chosen from among more than 65 designs and close to 75 slogan ideas that were submitted by DJJ students across the agency.

"I really look forward to working with everyone as we increase our effort to reduce our impact on the environment," said Aloysius S. Anderson, DJJ's job apprenticeship/sustainability consultant. "This is just the beginning of our "Recycle at DJJ" campaign, and already we have people from all over pitching in."

The students who helped design the logo and slogan will receive certificates of recognition for their work.

Avalonia and Excalibur Programs Help Ensure Positive Outcomes for DJJ Youth

These are the first in a series of articles that will feature community placement and their contributing efforts to prepare our young people for success.



Youth from the Excalibur and Avalonia programs help wash emergency vehicles as part of "Restoring Carolina Through Youth Service" Day in September

The Avalonia and Excalibur residential programs, located in the Upstate, are private providers serving youth from all over the state—including those placed by DJJ. As DJJ is focused on job readiness for teens, so are Avalonia and Excalibur.

Both facilities are recipients of Title I funds through Greenville County Schools, offering tutoring in math and reading, GED preparation, and classes on transitioning from school to work.

In preparing youth for the workplace, Excalibur's TORCH program is instrumental in enrolling students at Greenville Technical College in the Industrial Technology Department's Building Construction Technology (BCT) classes. This curriculum is designed so that students can continue their studies after they leave the Excalibur and Avalonia programs, if they wish. Students are given certificates for each course completed, as well as, an OSHA safety card for the workplace.

Greenville Tech's Industrial Technology program is also approved by the National Center for Construction Education and Research, NCCER, which gives graduates additional credibility in the construction field.

Lisa Tyson is the DJJ program monitor for Avalonia and Excalibur. "The Building Construction Technology program is a great way for DJJ youth to build skills that

will meet industry needs," she said. "The courses allow students to earn their BCT Certificate, diploma (with general educational courses), or an associate's degree in Applied Science. This is a wonderful opportunity for our juveniles and we are very proud of those that have earned this recognition. We look forward to many more to follow."

DJJ Success Stories

Making Success Work

This is a story about a young man and his rise from DJJ and community placement to Lander University, where he is a first semester freshman. He arrived at Camp Aspen in May of 2010 (after being evaluated at Upstate Evaluation Center). Less than three months later, he left Camp Aspen.

Unfortunately, less than a year later he was back at DJJ, and was again placed at Camp Aspen. This time he seemed more confident and determined to use his time at Camp Aspen more wisely than before. He studied for and passed the GED with a score of 2,490.

He continued, however, to struggle with his individual program goals, and knowing that he would not be going back to high school after passing the GED, he became frustrated at not having any direction. With his GED in hand, guidance from his counselor, teachers, staff at Camp Aspen and Susan Bowman of the Youth Hope Foundation, he saw a new path to success. Ms. Bowman offered him the chance to earn a college scholarship. And though apprehensive of what this opportunity might bring, he decided to go for it.

With assistance from the staff, he completed the application for Lander University. He took the SAT, toured the university's campus, and returned home to await his SAT score. In the meantime, he applied to Greenville Technical College. However, things changed quickly. Just a few weeks after applying to Greenville Tech, Erin Moffitt, program director at Camp Aspen, received the call that he had been accepted to Lander University. He was notified by Ms. Moffitt of his acceptance, and on January 7, 2013, he entered college.

Lander's admissions counselor Chase Cooley said the young man has adjusted well to college life. In an email sent to Camp Aspen the student expressed his appreciation for all the help he had received, and noted he hopes to make everyone proud!

Moving from cause of problem to problem solver

It's been said that the race is not given to the swift or to the strong, but to the one whom endures to the end. Megan, who left DJJ's BRRC facility in 2012, can definitely attest to this quote, according to her former ISO Yvette Montgomery of Berkeley County. While at DJJ, Megan took advantage of the support and guidance of staff and mentors and began to rise above her past from a lifestyle of reckless behavior to something more positive.

Megan is just beginning her journey toward a successful ending. In January, she enrolled as a freshman at Northwestern Michigan College majoring in aviation. With a fresh start, "Megan is a true success story of how you can turn a bad situation into something beautiful," said Montgomery.

Megan's involvement with the juvenile justice system began at age 16 and she was transitioned in and out of group homes as intervention; but without much success. After continued unlawful violations, she was committed to DJJ.

With possible long-term and harsh punishment ahead, she began to evaluate her future. Believing that there was something more to life than crime and punishment, she allowed her experiences at DJJ to become stepping stones to positive transformation. She quickly took advantage of the many opportunities offered to her. She became involved in the JROTC program and took on a leadership role, obtained certifications in welding and plumbing, and obtained her GED.

Along the way, she began to look forward to entering college. A huge plus for her character development and self-esteem was preparing as a contestant for DJJ's Miss Willow Lane Pageant. She was determined to win the pageant and the \$2,500 scholarship provided by Bi-Lo Charities. She won the pageant and has enrolled in college.

Immediately after leaving DJJ on parole in 2012, she transitioned to community placement at New Foundation (for a very short time) and then entered Tri-County Technical College for one semester. There she achieved a 3.4 grade point average. She later moved to Michigan (under an Interstate Compact) where she has family.

In a speech written and delivered by Megan while at DJJ, she said, "The love and support that my family and the DJJ community has given me, makes me want to better myself everyday." She is well on her way to keeping that commitment – to enduring to the end.

Community Behind the Fence Holds Fall Festival



DJJ Volunteers

Laughter and excitement filled the air as the Office of Volunteer Services hosted the first Fall Festival behind the fence. The festival had all the trimmings of a community festival - cotton candy, elephant ears, candy apples, popcorn, corn dogs, and even a feast of fried fish and French fries with vinegar.

The youth, staff and volunteers had a great deal of fun— from playing games, to singing, to having faces painted, to eating (a lot). As an added bonus, a ventriloquist delivered humor with an encouraging message.

A number of volunteers, faith-based partners, and DJJ staff came forward and offered their time and donations of food, beverages, equipment and games. Volunteer Services staff were especially appreciative and grateful for the support of Calvary Baptist Church, Refuge Church, New Hope Baptist Church, First Baptist Church of Irmo, Ms. Beverly Wright, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Murphy, and Rev. Samuel Fordham and the First Baptist Church of North.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make this event a huge success!



National Mentor Month



DJJ Mentors

The Office of Volunteer Services had the privilege of celebrating DJJ's mentors in January, during National Mentor Month. These mentors are volunteers who continuously serve our youth, and everyone involved felt it was an honor to "give back" to them and to show appreciation to those who give so many hours mentoring our youth.

During January, mentors were treated to weekly activities designed to build camaraderie and to create a unique mentoring experience. Volunteer Services Marvin Ash, mentor coordinator, and Eboni White, program assistant, created a new theme each week to include game week, bingo week, movie week and a culminating pizza party week to bring the month to a close. The activities were thoroughly enjoyed by both mentors and youth.

Mentor Cindy Mooneyham said "We had a lot of fun and we really enjoyed the movies." Mentor Louise Crow added, "I really enjoyed spending time with the youth doing something new and different." Another mentor Dan O'Donnell said he "really enjoyed all of the activities and would love for DJJ to continue to offer different activities for us to do with the youth."

The Office of Volunteer Services would like to thank all of DJJ's mentors for their tireless efforts and faithful service to our youth. "You are appreciated!"

Birchwood Students Attend College On-line

Two Birchwood School students are now enrolled in on-line classes through Midlands Technical College.

Gordon B. is in his second semester of taking classes on-line. With support from teachers, social workers, security staff, and administrators, he has exhibited a strong resolve to achieve his goals, finishing the fall

semester at Midlands Technical College with a 4.0 GPA.

It was a team effort that contributed to his current success, and he has paved the road for other students— such as Isaiah W., who is currently enrolled along with Gordon for the spring term.

The Birchwood School technical college experience is designed for students who have acquired their GED and have the drive and determination to take online courses in a restricted environment.

Jasper Program Shows Impact of Crime Involving Weapons



DJJ's Jasper County Office has developed a Weapons Awareness Program as a prevention/intervention initiative in response to the rise of violent crime in the community, and to deter future criminal acts involving weapons of any sort.

In late January, the program was presented to 11 youth from Jasper and Hampton Counties who have been charged with either a violent crime, weapons offense, or crime of an aggressive nature. The program included presentations from the Jasper County Sheriff's Office and local EMS, and a presentation on the negative effects of crime stemming from the dangerous mix of weapons, alcohol, and drugs.

According to Jasper County Director Joseph Bonaparte the program has grown and is currently supported by the Jasper County Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Jasper County Sheriff's Office, and the Ridgeland Fire Department. "All the agencies are eager to participate in helping our children understand the negative effects of weapons," Bonaparte said. "They drive home a clear message of what can happen when a weapon is used and that it will affect not only the crime victim, but their family as well."

New Boys & Girls Clubs Teen Center Opens in York County



Director Barber addresses the crowd while Associate Superintendent of the Rock Hill School District and Boys & Girls Club Chair Elect Dr. Harriett Jaworowski, 16th Circuit Solicitor Kevin Brackett (left), and Rock Hill Schools Superintendent Dr. Lynn Moody (right) look on.

On January 17, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to open the new Boys & Girls Clubs of York County Teen Center, in Rock Hill. The ceremony was well attended by local leaders, community partners, citizens of York County, and youth from the Clubs. DJJ Director Margaret H. Barber was among the speakers to acknowledge the importance of the Center.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of York County, in partnership with York County Solicitor's Office, Rock Hill School District, DJJ, and the Rock Hill Police Department hosted the grand opening of the Center, which is housed at the Rock Hill School District Flexible Learning Center. The grand opening followed many months of planning and collaboration between the partners to create a teen center for middle and high school students.

Ouida Dest, Deputy Solicitor in the York County 16th Circuit Solicitor's Office, noted that statistics show juvenile crime occurs most frequently in the hours following the close of school. "The Solicitor's Office has an interest in the Teen Center because it will open during after school hours on school days," said Dest. "An important risk factor identified with juvenile crime is failure in school, and this program will attempt to improve school performance through educational tutoring, vocational training, and other goals that are consistent with the mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of York County."

She noted that a mentoring component of the program will give additional guidance and support to teens to encourage positive behavior and good character.

York County DJJ Director Amahl Bennett worked diligently with community partners to have the Center become reality. "The Teen Center is a wonderful addition to our array of services as it will provide opportunities for youth to be referred at any level in our system to receive mentoring, job skills training, and tutoring at the end of their school day," said Bennett.

As a strong advocate of Teen After-School Centers, DJJ recognizes their importance in preventing juvenile crime, and supports this new addition as another tool to help the youth of York County become productive citizens.



Pictured left to right, DJJ Director Margaret Barber, DJJ York County Director Amahl Bennett, and City of Rock Hill Mayor Doug Echols at opening of Teen Center.

Aiken County Office Sponsors Christmas for Local Family



Pictured left to right are ISO Rebecca Morris as the Winter Fairy, Administrative Specialist Gary Cates Jr. as Santa, and Intake Community Specialist II Jessica Timmerman as the Christmas Fairy.

It is a tradition for the DJJ Aiken County Office to partner with Area Churches Together Serving (ACTS) to adopt a family in need. At Thanksgiving, the entire office gives one family a complete dinner, and at Christmas they adopt a different family to provide necessities such as food, clothing, and toys for children.

ACTS provides temporary and emergency aid to needy persons in the Aiken area. For Christmas, ACTS accepted from parents their children's wish-lists for

Santa. Children were then matched with sponsors who provided items from the wish lists.

This past Christmas, the Aiken County office was assigned a family with a beautiful 4-year old girl named Samantha. Her clothes sizes, favorite colors, and favorite toys ("Tinkerbelle" and "Hello Kitty" items) were provided to staff. From there, staff began to select gifts for the family. And, of course, Samantha received a lot of attention.

"This year was unique because the family came to the DJJ office to pick up their gifts," said Administrative Specialist Gary Cates. "Hearing that the little girl (Samantha) liked Tinkerbelle, ISO Rebecca Morris and Community Specialist II Jessica Timmerman dressed in costumes as the Winter and Christmas fairies, as a surprise to her." Gary designed the costumes and dressed as Santa Claus

"When Samantha came to our office and saw Santa, she was so excited she was jumping up and down," said Jessica. "We told her Santa had made the visit just to see her, because she is such a special girl. While I did feel silly dressing like a fairy and having our pictures taken as a forever-reminder, it was worth seeing Samantha's smile."

Rebecca summed up the experience by saying, "Samantha showed me that wearing wings can indeed make a difference. I have my magic fairy wand on my desk as a reminder that we must sometimes think outside of the box!"

DJJ Office of Human Resources Reaches Out to the Community



DJJ Human Resources staff volunteered to fill Harvest Hope food boxes

On December 5, 2012, staff from DJJ's Human Resources Office filled 300 boxes of food at a Harvest Hope Food Bank facility in Columbia. These food boxes were given to families in need.

"While our main focus for this project was community outreach, however, we experienced other collateral results from the event," stated Human Resources Director Jim Hatchell. "Upon arriving at the facility we didn't know exactly what to expect, however, we learned quickly. We were paired into teams of two and started putting the boxes together. Within 20 minutes (plus or minus a few) we had assembled approximately 400 boxes and filled 300 of them. At one point someone mistakenly broke open a carton of milk by accident, but they didn't cry over spilled milk, they kept working."

Thank you Human Resources staff for showing both community spirit and the spirit of good teamwork!

DJJ Promotions & Announcements



Ann Oswald Fallaw has rejoined the Upstate Evaluation Center (UEC) as a teacher. Fallaw, had previously taught at UEC for eight years before leaving in 2010.

Cynthia Ford has been promoted to director of DJJ's Dillon County Office.

Russell Harris Joseph Craig, Michael Burggraf and Derrick Davis have joined the Office of Information Technology.

Sylvia Murray has been named the new Deputy Director of Administrative Services. Sylvia, previously the Senior Business Manager for the Division of Educational Services, has served 17 years in state government.

Vallorie Robinson has been promoted to the position of Prevention Specialist for the Midlands Region in the Community Services Division. Vallorie previously served as the Administrative Assistant for the Deputy Director of the Division of Community Services.

DJJ has opened a new **Dental Clinic** to serve our youth. The clinic is located on the Willow Lane Campus near the cafeteria. Dr. Michael Rabkin is the dentist, and his assistant is Beth Wallace.